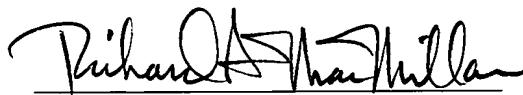


REMARKS

The applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-10 for prosecution with traverse in light of the amended language of independent Claim 11. Specifically, independent Claim 11 has been amended to recite that an insert is provided "having a node securing portion and a mounting portion that is adapted to have a structural member secured thereto" similar to independent Claim 1. Thus the restriction requirement has been obviated because the combination defined in the claims of Group II does, in fact, require the particulars of the combination defined in the claims of Group I.

The applicant further elects Species A shown in Figs. 1 through 4 for prosecution. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, and 15-19 are believed to read on the elected species.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard S. MacMillan
Reg. No. 30,085

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fifth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900